

Jay Co. rate goes up to 4%

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
For the third month in a row, the unemployment rate went up. According to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released Wednesday, Jay County's unemployment rate went up by 0.4 percentage points in July.

The county's rate came in at 4%, which was tied for the 39th-lowest rate in the state in comparison to the other 91 counties. It was down 0.7 percentage points from the same month last year.

The unemployment rate in Jay County has gone up by a total of 1.3 percentage points over a three-month period. It had dropped to 2.7% in April after coming in at 4.1% in February.

Increases in unemployment rates were the story throughout the region, as adjacent counties saw jumps from 0.3 percentage points to Delaware County's high of 0.7 percentage points. The Delaware County rate of 5% was sixth-highest in the state while Wells County came in tied for third-lowest at 3.3%.

Indiana's rate increased by half a percentage point from June, coming in at 4.2%. It was still down by 0.8 percentage points from the same month in 2024.

Union County continued its run of low unemployment, posting the state's lowest rate at 3.1% in July. Martin County followed at 3.2%, with Wells, Pulaski and Boone counties next at 3.3%.

Howard County again had by far the highest unemployment rate in Indiana at 6.9%. Lake County was next at 5.4%.

Area unemployment rates are as follows:

Adams County: 4%, up 0.4 percentage point, tied for 39th-lowest

Blackford County: 4.7%, up 0.5 percentage points, tied for 11th-highest

Delaware County: 5%, up 0.7 percentage points, sixth-highest

Jay County: 4%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for 39th-lowest

Randolph County: 4.2%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for 28th-highest

Wells County: 3.3%, up 0.3 percentage points, tied for third-lowest



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

On display

There are plenty of tractors and engines on display at the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show, which runs through Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds and the adjacent Tri-State grounds. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for high school students. Children 12 and younger are admitted free.

Deaths prompt heath dept. reminder

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

After more than 10 Hoosier infants died in unsafe sleep environments in recent weeks, the state's health department is urging parents and caregivers to take extra precautions at bed-time.

The Indiana Department of Health noted the number is higher than the state's average of about two unsafe-sleep deaths per week.

"I can't stress enough how important it is to place babies in a safe sleep environment," State Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver said in a Monday news release. "These

More than 10 infants have died recently in unsafe sleep environments

tragic deaths are preventable and can have a profound impact on communities."

State health officials reminded families of the "ABCs" of safe sleep: infants should sleep "Alone," on their "Back," and in a "Crib" free of blankets, pillows, bumper pads or stuffed animals.

Other precautions include

having a breastfeeding and safe sleep plan. IDOH is additionally working with the Department of Child Services and other partners across the state to increase awareness about safe sleep, officials said.

Unsafe practices such as bed-sharing with adults or placing babies on their stomachs increase the risk of suffocation.

IDOH data shows that suffocation caused by unsafe sleep environments is the third leading cause of death for all Indiana infants. Between 2015-2019, 36% of unsafe sleep deaths in Indiana occurred during nap-time.

The new warning follows the health department's announcement in June that Indiana's infant death rate in 2024 might have reached a historic low of 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, a drop from 6.6 the year before. That figure would mark the lowest rate since the state began keeping records in 1900. The data is provisional and a final analysis of the 2024 numbers is expected later this year.



Tribune News Service/ZUMA Press Wire/dpa/Svet Jacqueline

Rescue workers search the rubble of a destroyed residential building after a Russian missile attack that struck Kiev. Leaders from the United States and Europe have started work on a plan to bolster Ukraine's military.

U.S., Europe work on plan

By ALBERTO NARDELLI, ALEX WICKHAM and ELLEN MILLIGAN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. and European officials started work on bolstering Ukraine's military, part of a package of security guarantees that will open a path to a landmark meeting between presidents Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The guarantees, which will be fleshed out by military and intelligence officials, are aimed at allowing Ukraine to boost troop numbers without limitations, according to people familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

The aim is to avoid Russia demanding restrictions on the size of Kyiv's military as part of a future agreement to end the war.

A White House summit between President Donald Trump, Zelenskyy and several European leaders on Monday yielded a clearer commitment from

Allies are seeking to bolster Ukraine's military

the U.S. administration to help guarantee Ukraine's security. Those talks allayed concerns in Kyiv and Europe for now that the U.S. leader had tacked toward Moscow after talks with Putin in Alaska.

"During the meeting we discussed Security Guarantees for Ukraine, which Guarantees would be provided by the various European Countries, with a coordination with the United States of America," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

European Union leaders met on Tuesday to be briefed on the outcome of the talks in Washington.

A package of security guarantees would also build on the work of the so-

called coalition of the willing, a European group led by the U.K. and France, and is expected to include a multinational force in the future, said the people. Its format is yet to be defined, they said.

Leaders showed broad support for "Article 5-like" guarantees — a reference to NATO's mutual defense clause and a formula originally proposed by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni — at Monday's meeting, the people said. They cautioned that the exact details and the U.S. role in the potential arrangement will have to be first worked out by officials.

The contours of the emerging proposal suggest

that the beefed-up Ukrainian armed forces would become the first line of defense in the event of a ceasefire. A multinational force from the coalition of the willing countries would be deployed further away from the frontline with the role of the U.S. reduced to providing a backstop, possibly in the form of intelligence and air defenses.

Much remains elusive. A European official cautioned that Putin still scored a major win over the last week in avoiding fresh U.S. sanctions. And a risk remains that Trump can blame Zelenskyy and the Europeans should an impasse emerge in the coming weeks, the person said.

But if Trump follows through with his pledge on guarantees, Putin may be forced to break his red lines or risk a rupture with Trump, the person said.

Much of the effort, including the purchase of weapons, is expected to rest on Europe's shoulders.

Deaths

Janet Parker, 88, Fort Recovery
Jerry Reynolds, 91, Bluffton
Burton Sipe, 75, North Manchester
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Tuesday. The low was 71.
Tonight's low will be in the upper 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high around 80. The high will be in the lower 80s Saturday and mid 70s Sunday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Municipal Airport will host its annual fly-in and pancake breakfast from 6 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Airplane rides will be available for \$20 per person from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The airport is located at 564 W. 100 North, Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of Jay County Commissioners' special meeting.

Saturday — A feature from the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show.

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS cross country team at the Celina Rotary Invitational.



Capsule Reports

Truck on fire

A pickup truck was destroyed in a fire Tuesday in Jay County.

Dunkirk and Pennville fire departments responded to 146 N. 1100 West, Dunkirk, about 6:15 p.m. Tuesday. A fire started in the engine of a pickup truck on the property. Responders extinguished the fire in less than 10 minutes. There were no injuries, but damage resulted in a total loss of the vehicle.

Parked car hit

Damage is estimated

between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a Muncie woman's vehicle struck a parked car in Redkey about 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Robyn R. Shelton, 58, was driving her 2012 Kia Forte west on Main Street when she hit a parked 2024 Chevrolet Silverado. Shelton told police she didn't realize she struck the vehicle and continued driving until she was stopped by Albany police. The owner of the Silverado, 50-year-old Jamie V. Lowe of Dunkirk, followed her until she stopped.

Obituaries

Janet Parker

Sept. 22, 1936-Aug. 19, 2025
Janet "Jan" Lillian Parker, age 88, of Fort Recovery, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater.



Parker

She was born on Sept. 22, 1936, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late Henry and Anna (Schlensker) Steinkamp.

In addition to her parents, Jan was preceded in death by her husband, Deacon John G. Parker, whom she married on Aug. 21, 1965, and who passed away on April 29, 2018; and her siblings, Albert Steinkamp, Raymond Steinkamp, Herbert Steinkamp, Anna Dunihoo and Emily Rahn.

Jan is survived by her children, Janet (Paul) Rohrer of Fort Recovery, Jeanne Parker of Fort Myers, Florida, Jennifer (Steve) Schwieterman of Portland, and John C. (Amy) Parker of Fort Wayne; her 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren with three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild on the way; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graduate of North College Hill High School in Cincinnati, Janet embarked on a successful career in banking, dedicating 11 years to Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati before continuing her service for another 26 years at Second National Bank in Fort Recovery. Her professional life was marked by a commitment to excellence and a genuine care for her clients and colleagues.

Janet was a faithful woman who placed God at the center of her life. A devoted member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, she passionately served her parish community in various capacities. As a Eucharistic Minister, she brought holy communion to the homebound, offering comfort and connection to those in need. Janet willingly shared her talents as a religion teacher, a member of the funeral luncheon committee, the Daughters of Isabella and the Altar Sodality. She also dedicated her time to counting the weekend collection and provided invaluable support as the FOCCUS coordinator. Since 1985, she was a cherished member of the Deacon Wives support group and enjoyed sharing in the mission of serving God's people alongside her husband, John Parker, whom she aided in coordinating baptisms and weddings.

Beyond her devout service to her church and community, Janet found joy in her family, crafting beautiful afghans for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her love for sewing and completing jigsaw puzzles brought countless hours of happiness and creativity to her home. Jan also enjoyed rooting on the Cincinnati Reds and playing cards with her family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Bur-

ial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

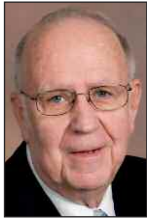
Guests may visit with Jan's family on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Jerry Reynolds

June 3, 1934-Aug. 17, 2025
Jerry Arthur Reynolds, 91, of Bluffton, Indiana, went to be with the Lord on Aug. 17, 2025.



Reynolds

Jerry was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on June 3, 1934, son of the late Lloyd and Bernice (Brown) Reynolds. Jerry graduated from North Side High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and went into the military soon after.

After his military service, he came home and married the love of his life, Ruth Wegman, on June 12, 1960. They were blessed with 55 years of marriage until Ruth's passing in 2015.

Jerry worked construction with his brother-in-law, Keith McComb, for several years, learning the skills that he used to build his family's home in Fort Wayne. He also took those skills and used them for many building and remodeling projects over the years for his children, grandchildren, friends and his church. Jerry also worked for the United States Post Office in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a supervisor, and then as postmaster of the Bluffton, Indiana, Post Office. He stayed in that position until his retirement.

Jerry was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Bluffton, Indiana, where he was a past member of the church council and helped with building projects in the new sanctuary, children's playground, and many other activities. He was also a past member of the Bluffton, Indiana Rotary Club.

Jerry is survived by his two daughters, Christine (Thomas) Stout, Nappanee, Indiana, and Tamara (Mark) Tillman, Portland, Indiana; two grandsons, Matthew (Erin) Stout, Noblesville, Indiana, and Patrick (Kristen) Stout, Indianapolis; four great-grandchildren, Grace Stout, Theodore Stout, Logan Stout and Dylan Stout; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, Jerry was preceded in death by a brother, Jim Reynolds; two sisters, Elaine McComb, and Beverly Lewis; and a great-granddaughter, Lydia Ruth Stout.

Visitation will be on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Thoma/Rich Lemler Funeral Home, Bluffton, Indiana. The service will be on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Bluffton, Indiana, with visitation one hour before. Burial will be at Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Memorials may be designated to Calvary Lutheran Church or The National SIDS Foundation.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Friends may share online condolences with the family at thomarich.com.

Burton Sipe

Feb. 20, 1950-Aug. 18, 2025
Burton "Burt" Ray Sipe, age 75, of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away at his home on Aug. 18, 2025.



Sipe

The son of Paul Donnel and Esta Virginia (Atkinson) Sipe, Burt was born Feb. 20, 1950, in Portland, Indiana.

A proud graduate of Portland High School, Burt had an enriching life filled with personal connections and cherished moments. On April 17, 1976, he married the love of his life, Kathy J. Col-dren. Together, they built a loving home in Decatur before relocating to North Manchester, where they could be close to their two beloved daughters, Jenny and Andrea, and their grandchildren.

Kathy later passed away on Nov. 27, 2020, after 44 years of marriage.

Burt proudly served his country in the National Guard before embarking on a long and successful professional journey. He began his career at United Telephone Company, which underwent several name changes throughout the years — transforming into Sprint, Embarq and ultimately CenturyLink. His career spanned over 40 years, culminating in his retirement in 2012, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and service.

For more than four decades, he gathered with his "poker buddies," sharing laughter while enjoying their favorite card games. He actively supported his sons-in-law by keeping stats for the Manchester High School football team and Northfield High School football team and maintaining the scorebook for Manchester University sports. Burt was also a member of the North Manchester Moose and was a long-time member of the Eel River Shriners, Mizpah Shrine in Fort Wayne and Deming Lodge 88, North Manchester. His contributions to both organizations reflected his generous spirit and the importance he placed on giving back to those around him. Burt's adventurous side was apparent

in his love for riding his Gold Wing motorcycle, a hobby that took him on many journeys and adventures.

The loving memory of Burt Sipe will be forever cherished by his daughters, Jenny (Brandon) Baker and Andrea (Rick) Espeset, both of North Manchester; brother, Billy "Bill" (Linda) Sipe, Portland, Indiana; sister, Barbara (Jim) McDonald, Hardinsburg, Indiana; and grandchildren, Addi Baker, Ethan Espeset, McKelvey Espeset, Elli Baker, Briggs Baker and Finley Espeset.

Burt was preceded in death by his parents; and wife, Kathy J. Sipe.

Family and friends may call Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 Indiana 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana. At the end of calling, there will be a Masonic service. Funeral services will be held Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at 10 a.m. with calling beginning at 9 a.m. with Pastor J.P. Freeman officiating. Burial will be held at Oaklawn Cemetery in North Manchester, Indiana.

For those who wish to honor the memory of Burt Sipe, memorial contributions may be made to Northfield High School Athletic Department, 154 W. 200 North, Wabash, IN 46992, or Manchester High School athletics department, 1 Squire Drive, North Manchester, IN 46962.

The family of Burt Sipe has entrusted McKee Mortuary with care and final arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at mckeemortuary.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

SERVICES

Friday

Sipe, Burton: 10 a.m., McKee Mortuary, 1401 Indiana 114 West, North Manchester.

Saturday

Parker, Janet: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Leggett, Rita: noon, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday

Reynolds, Jerry: 10:30 a.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 1532 N. Main St., Bluffton.

Aug. 30

Shilt, Donald: 11 a.m., Tribute Funeral Homes, 1000 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

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CR almanac

Friday 8/22	Saturday 8/23	Sunday 8/24	Monday 8/25	Tuesday 8/26
80/60	80/58	76/53	71/59	71/46
Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a low around 60 at night.	Mostly sunny again on Saturday with highs in the low 80s.	Sunny skies are expected on Sunday when the low may dip to 52.	Monday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with the low hitting 48.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when the high will be in the lower 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$643 million

Mega Millions

10-19-24-49-68
Mega Ball: 10
Estimated jackpot: \$234 million

Hoosier

Tuesday
Midday
Daily Three: 8-7-9
Daily Four: 2-1-9-3
Quick Draw: 1-2-6-16-21-25-31-37-39-40-41-42-49-51-58-68-71-74-75-79
Evening

Daily Three: 2-3-3
Daily Four: 5-0-2-3
Quick Draw: 2-4-5-10-22-26-27-31-34-42-48-49-53-54-56-57-62-63-70-73

Ohio

Tuesday
Midday
Pick 3: 7-2-5
Pick 4: 0-5-1-2
Pick 5: 5-4-8-5-5
Evening
Pick 3: 6-9-0
Pick 4: 9-3-6-9
Pick 5: 7-2-7-6-4
Rolling Cash: 3-11-20-21-29
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.01
Sept. corn3.99
Oct. corn3.90

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.16
Sept. corn4.16
Oct. corn4.01

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn.....3.86
Sept. corn3.86
Beans10.09

Sept. beans10.09
Wheat 4.73

ADM Montpelier

Corn.....3.81
Sept. corn3.81
Beans10.06
Sept. beans10.04
Wheat4.72

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....3.96
Sept. corn3.96
Beans9.85
Oct. beans9.75
Wheat4.43

Today in history

In 1879, Ransom Eli Olds founded Oldsmobile. The car brand first manufactured its vehicles in Lansing, Michigan, before General Motors purchased it in 1908.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre. The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.

In 1942, "Bambi" hit theatres in the United States. The classic Disney film is known for its hand-drawn animation and moving narrative.

In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state to join the United States of America.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii.

In 1987, "Dirty Dancing" was released in American theatres. The romantic drama starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey became a long-lasting hit.

In 2020, Redkey Town Council president Terri Taylor resigned from her seat on the board. She voiced concerns about council's decision-making, saying it "consequently could lead to a downfall of our town" and that she couldn't be a part of it.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city

building, 131 S. Main St.

Tuesday

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, Morgan park, 50 Mooney St.

Wednesday

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building 131 S. Main St.

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<http://www.portlandvet.net> • Christian Bader DVM

Grieving family doesn’t need another teen

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had two sons, “Seth” and “Jason,” who were best buddies. Seth passed away a year and a half ago, which has been really hard on us all, but especially on Jason. He’s now 17 and in high school. He’s doing OK, but he is still sort of listless and keeps to himself a lot.

My sister’s son, “Matt,” was the same age as Seth. She suggested he come stay with us on school breaks as company and a role model for Jason. She dotes on Matt and implies it’s a sacrifice for her to give up time with him for us. Her impulse seems sweet, but frankly, I don’t want Matt around Jason. He smokes pot, sleeps most of the day and

Dear Abby



plays video games the rest of the time. He is not doing well in school and has no ambition. He also drives while he’s high, which I realized when I was visiting them last year.

I told my sister that it was too much to have another kid in the house, but she kept pushing. Now she wants Jason to come stay with them, which I think would be worse. How do I main-

tain some distance without telling her directly that I think her kid has some work to do on himself before I want him to be a role model for mine? — BAD PLAN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BAD PLAN: It is not necessary to point out to your sister that her son is an underachieving mess. Under no circumstances should your son be exposed to Cousin Matt without supervision, because that young man is well on his way down the road to nowhere. Tell your sister you know she means well, and while you appreciate the spirit in which she has made the offer, no one, including Matt, can substi-

tute for the loss Jason feels for his brother.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I am the oldest son. My problem is, my sisters are taking financial advantage of our mother. Neither of them seems to want to work or be able to hold a full-time job. When Dad was alive, he helped them out by buying them homes, but he never gave them money.

I have worked and been self-sufficient my entire life. I bought my own home. Mom has been paying for home repairs for one sister, and she “loaned” the other sister money to buy a property she wants to build on, despite having no income. Mom has also been paying the monthly HOA dues on

both my sisters’ homes, which is several hundred dollars per month.

I have told them repeatedly to stop asking Mom for money. She’s a retired teacher who lives on a fixed income, and her savings are now completely gone. How can I get my sisters to quit living off our mother’s life savings? — DISGUSTED SON IN NEVADA

DEAR SON: By draining your mother’s financial assets, your sisters may have committed what could be considered elder abuse. Elder abuse is a crime. The best person to help you put an end to this would be a lawyer. The sooner you consult one, the better for your mother.

Sudoku

4	9		2					
2		5	4		9			
	2	9	5		3			
1	3					8		
			9	8				
		1		2		7		4
				3				8
7			8					6

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday’s Solution

9	6	7	2	1	3	4	8	5
8	3	2	9	5	4	1	7	6
4	1	5	8	6	7	9	3	2
5	9	6	4	8	2	3	1	7
1	4	3	6	7	5	2	9	8
2	7	8	3	9	1	6	5	4
7	5	4	1	2	9	8	6	3
6	2	1	7	3	8	5	4	9
3	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	1

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each

Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through

miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early

for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Hiding homeless won't solve issue

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The White House has promised swift action on homelessness. It aims to dismantle encampments, force addicts and the mentally ill into treatment, and yank federal funds from cities that refuse to police tents and open-air drug use. For residents exasperated by sidewalk squalor, that sounds like overdue toughness.

In reality, casting the homeless as nothing more than a public nuisance understates the crisis and diverts money and attention from the broader solutions that are needed.

Encampments are only the visible edge of a wider emergency. Roughly two-thirds of unhoused Americans spend nights in cars, motels or overcrowded shelters. From 2023 to 2024, the number of people experiencing homelessness nationally jumped 18%, with the fastest

Guest Editorial

growth among families. Behind those numbers is a structural shortage of low-rent homes — over 7 million units by the latest count — while Medicaid and mental-health systems remain threadbare and under attack from the administration.

There are no quick fixes, but progress is possible. Since 2009, veteran homelessness has fallen 55% because Congress paired long-term rent subsidies with case management and health care through a single, accountable system. Houston used the same “housing first” formula, with placement in permanent housing plus voluntary services, to cut its homeless count by over 60%. Similar methods have worked well in cities abroad. For example, Helsinki used them to push street homelessness to near zero (until recent cuts to support let it reappear).

All successful programs recognize that stable shelter is essential. A settled address is a place to sleep in safety, use medicines as directed, and store important documents and belongings. Randomized trials have shown that housing-first approaches, especially when linked with health and other services, work better for many of the homeless — and far less expensively — than rotating people through emergency wards and county jails.

Short-term rental aid, emergency cash after a job loss and legal help in preventing evictions all reduce entries into shelters. States and cities should reform the zoning rules

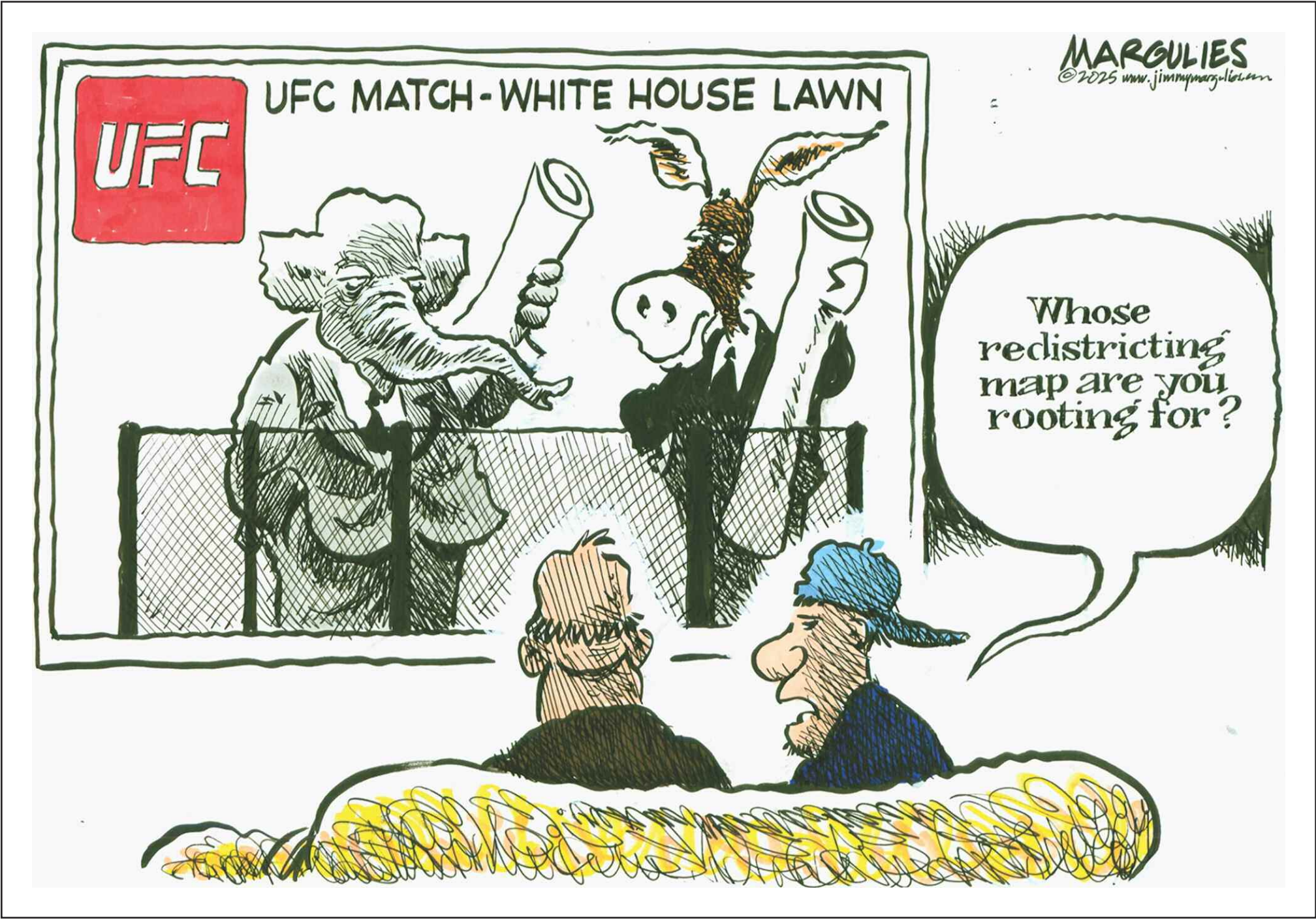
that throttle construction of small, inexpensive apartments. Federal housing vouchers — which help offset housing costs for some 2 million low-income households — are effective, but demand dwarfs supply and most eligible families never get them. Studies show vouchers don't deter work, and the cost is less than what would otherwise be spent on recurring emergency-room visits, police interventions and stays in jail.

Granted, these approaches are most likely to succeed with those in shelters; tackling chronic street homelessness is harder, because mental illness and drug addiction play a bigger role. The White House's plan concentrates on this second group. It seeks to bar federal housing help from anyone who cannot pass a sobriety test and funnels dollars from prevention to policing. It urges states to expand “civil commitments”

without saying where the subjects will be sent, how they will be treated or how they'll eventually exit.

The focus on street homelessness, which amounts to a breakdown of public order, is understandable, and more civil commitments to medical facilities are necessary. But residential treatments for addiction and mental illness aren't cheap. More funding is needed. Short of compulsory removal, mobile health teams that pair clinicians with outreach workers can reduce street homelessness cost-effectively, reducing both 911 calls and arrests.

The public's impatience with homelessness and the disorder that goes with it is justified, but simply hiding the homeless isn't the answer. The right kind of help — housing plus treatment and other services — isn't just more humane. Anything less is bound to fail.



What made us fumble education policy?

By **MICHAEL J. HICKS**

Indiana made a billion-dollar mistake based on a flawed jobs forecast a decade ago, and we're still paying for it.

State officials in 2015 used discredited federal methodology to predict a massive shortage of workers without college degrees. They were catastrophically wrong, but not before the forecast shaped education policy that steered thousands of students away from higher education.

This mistake began with good intentions. In late 2014, Gov. Mike Pence announced plans to create a stronger pathway to non-college career opportunities for high school students. He emphasized in speeches the need for academic preparation as well as a pathway for every student.

Schools needed guidance on what careers to prepare for, so the state Department of Workforce Development stepped in with an occupation forecast

Michael J. Hicks



that used a methodology from the Bureau of Labor Statistics — projections that have faced criticism for systematic flaws since the mid-1970s.

The several dozen major studies finding fault with these projections are best summarized by a study funded by the Lumina Foundation in 2010, which concluded BLS data “systematically under-predicts the demand for postsecondary education and training.” Other economists and I provided more than a dozen studies that said some version of the same thing to the DWD.

The DWD nonetheless projected that by 2024 there'd be a

shortage of 385,000 workers who hadn't been to college and an oversupply of more than 231,000 workers who'd been to college. The fact that nothing like this had ever happened anywhere before didn't dissuade the DWD. This projection went on to influence cuts to higher education funding.

What actually happened? The exact opposite.

Instead of losing jobs for non-college workers, Hoosier businesses actually created just over 92,000 jobs. The big forecast error was on college jobs. The DWD projected a surplus of 231,000 workers who'd been to college. In actuality, there were 140,000 more jobs for college graduates.

Even with state policy moving the needle in their direction, the DWD projection was off by 371,000 jobs. All economic forecasts are wrong, but most are useful. Given the predictably poor track record, the DWD projections shouldn't

have been used for policy development. Indeed, I know of no other state that actually uses these to inform public spending.

My own forecast projected exactly the opposite — a decline in jobs for people who hadn't attended college of roughly 90,000 workers, and an increase in college jobs of 86,000 positions. I was off by only 54,000, an almost seven-fold difference from the DWD error. My error is freakishly close to the number of Hoosier students who would have been expected to attend college, but chose not to, over the same period.

Between 2016 and today, 50,000 fewer Hoosier students attended college. Consider the cost to the Indiana economy of this policy mistake. Given the current wage gap and assuming historical completion rates, the cost to Indiana in lost incomes is nearly \$1 billion a year.

Fortunately, the legislature has backed off some of the

more egregious efforts to steer kids away from college, and very few state leaders are actively telling families that college is not worth it any longer. That doesn't erase the funding cuts to K-12 and higher education.

The most hopeful news is that changes to the 21st Century Scholars program should also orient more Hoosiers towards post-secondary education. We'll know about that success in the next couple years.

In the meantime, the economic losses due to lower educational attainment will continue throughout the work life of that cohort of young Hoosiers.

.....

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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with location, pastor and
phone number, services and
website or email address.
All services are Sunday,
unless otherwise indicated.

**Asbury United
Methodist**
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Josh Arthur
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11
a.m.
asburyministries.org

**Bellefountain
United Methodist**
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line
Road and county road 300
East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

**Calvary United
Methodist**
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in
umc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort
Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

**Church of
the Living God
(Miracle Missions)**
8472 S. 800 East, Union
City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Church of God
of Prophecy**
797 N. Creagor Ave., Por-
tland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

**Church of the
Brethren**
Floral and Chicago
avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

**Church of
the Living God**
South Broad Street,
Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m.
Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of
U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

**Cornerstone Church of
Pennville**
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St.,
Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Fairview United
Methodist/Jay County**
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South,
Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30
p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcen-
ter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-port-
land.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m.,
5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road,
Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

**First Community
Baptist**
341 S. Meridian St., Red-
key
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6
p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South,
Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6
p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

**Fort Recovery Church
of the Nazarene**
401 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen
ministries: 6 p.m. Wendes-
day
frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery
United Methodist**
309 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

**Full Gospel
Lighthouse Tabernacle**
468 E. Washington St.,
Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30
p.m. Thursday

**Geneva First
United Methodist**
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m.
Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North,
one-quarter mile east of
Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Hickory Grove
Church of the
Brethren**
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**High Street
United Methodist**
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67,
Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m.
Saturday

**Hopewell of
Life Ministries**
County road 200 South, 2
miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Immaculate
Conception Catholic**
506 E. Walnut St., Port-
land
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Satur-
day, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6
p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Mary Help
of Christians**
403 Sharpsburg Road,
Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Satur-
day, 9 a.m.

**Mount Tabor
Community Church**
216 W. Pleasant St.,
Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Mount Zion
United Methodist**
County roads 600 East
and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

**New Beginnings
Holiness Church
of Blaine**
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

**New Covenant
Fellowship**
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

**New Mt. Pleasant
United Methodist**
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

**Noble Congregational
Christian**
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Oak Grove
United Methodist**
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union
City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

**Portland Church of
Christ**
1217 W. Votaw St., Port-
land
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wed-
nesday
portlandcoc.com

**Portland First
Church of Nazarene**
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

**Praise Chapel
Church of God**
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-
Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets,
Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey Faith
Ministries**
9811 W. Indiana 67, south-
west of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin
Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

**Redkey First
Christian**
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey United
Methodist**
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redkey Church
of the Nazarene**
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Por-
tland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

**Salamonia
Church of Christ**
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

**Second Chance
at Life Ministries**
228 S. Meridian St., Port-
land
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sun-
day

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday,
5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wed-
nesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South
and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167,
Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2
p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

**The Church
at Westchester**
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort
Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contem-
porary service, fourth Sun-
day)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

**Trinity ArchBridge
Church**
323 S. Meridian St., Por-
tland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris
Kruchkow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Union Chapel Church
of the Nazarene**
County road 900 North
(Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North
and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**West Walnut
Church of Christ**
204 W. Walnut St., Port-
land
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-
christ.org

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gm
ail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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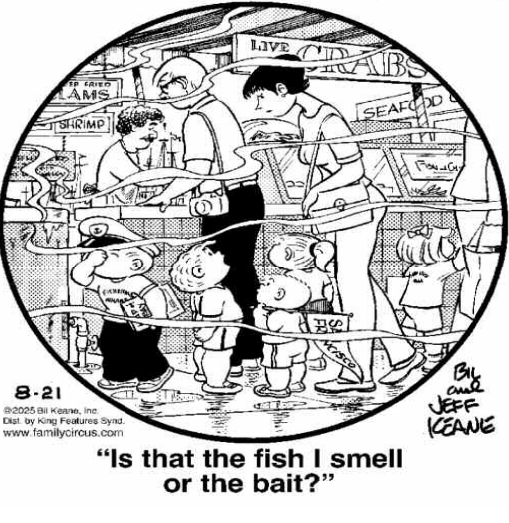

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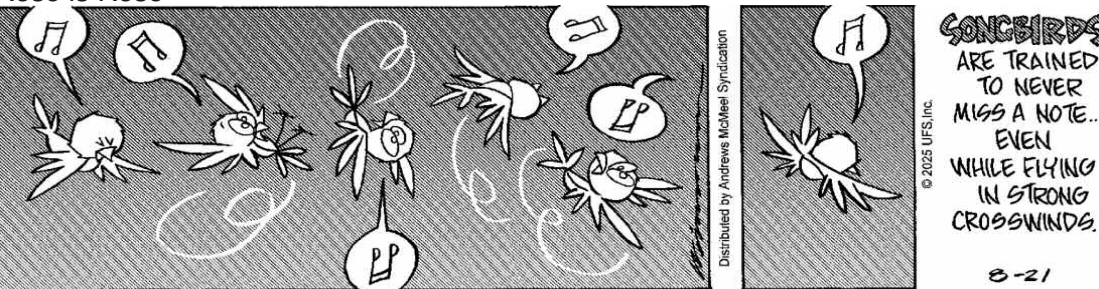
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



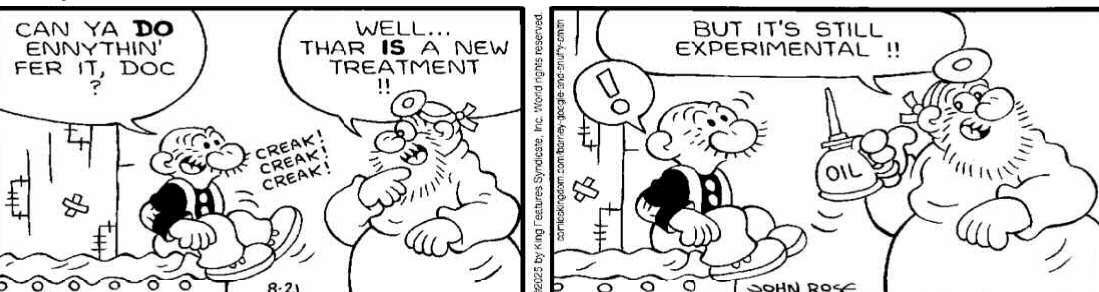
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Probability becomes certainty

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ A J 4
♣ A 7 2

EAST
♠ 9 6
♥ 6 3
♦ K 10 9 5 2
♣ 10 9 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 5
♥ A K 10 7 4 2
♦ 8
♣ K 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4NT Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥

Opening lead — queen of clubs.
In many cases where declarer starts out as a strong favorite to make his contract by adopting an obvious line of play, he should seek a way to elevate his chances even further before embarking on the straightforward approach. For example, take this deal where South is in six hearts and West leads a club.
Declarer sees that the only danger is the possibility of losing two spade tricks. One way of playing the hand, after winning the club

lead with the king, is to draw trump, lead a spade from dummy and finesse the ten. If this loses to the jack, declarer wins West's club or diamond return and tries a second spade finesse.
In the actual deal, both finesses would lose, and declarer would wind up down one — even though he was a 3-1 favorite to make the slam on this line of play.
However, a more cautious declarer would make the slam by adopting an approach designed to overcome the possibility of West's holding both the king and jack of spades. He would not settle for a 75% probability of success without first making an effort to raise his chances to 80, 90 or even 100%. This could be accomplished as follows:
After taking the king of clubs, declarer plays the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, leads a low heart to the nine, ruffs a diamond with the ace, cashes the ace of clubs, ruffs a club with the king and leads a low heart to the queen. This reduces the dummy to three spades and the J-5 of trump, while declarer has four spades and the ten of trump.
A spade to the ten then endplays West. After he wins with the jack, he has to return a spade, a diamond or a club, and whichever he chooses, South scores the last four tricks.

8-21 CRYPTOQUIP

SIEJI TQWPQ LN XLWTX YL
GLM XMUULXQ Z TPLMU LN
PQZHHG GLMWT YLTX SLMHY

UQPNLPK? UMU KMXEJ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL FOLKS WHO ARE GIVING SICK MALE BOVINES SHOTS OF MEDICINE? BULL-DOSERS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals Y

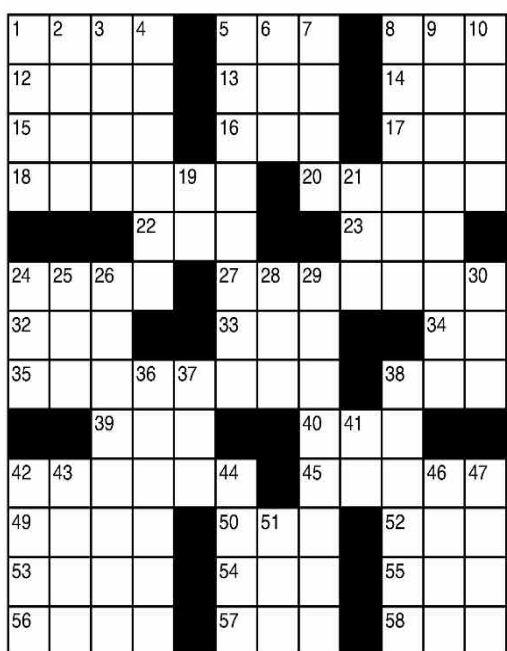
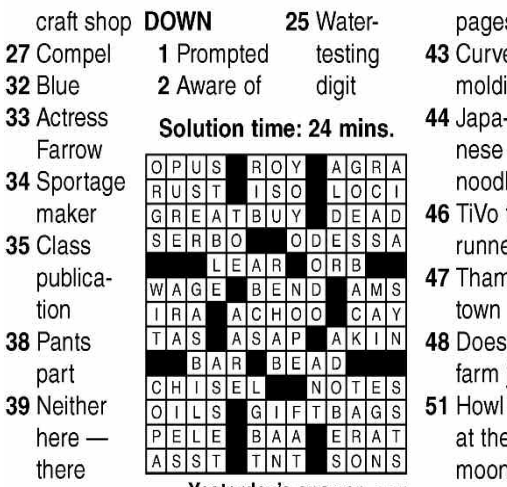
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Farm grazers
5 Recline
8 Glimpse
12 One
13 Goal
14 Big wind
15 Diminutive suffix
16 Actress Basinger
17 Hidden valley
18 Second childhood
20 Meddlers
22 Elmer, to Bugs
23 Texter's chuckle
24 Online craft shop
27 Compel
32 Blue
33 Actress Farrow
34 Sportage maker
35 Class publication
38 Pants part
39 Neither here — there

DOWN
40 Many millennia
42 Back teeth
45 Pushes
49 Lab gel
50 Japanese sash
52 Eight (Pref.)
53 Lap dog, for short
54 Abysmal
55 Ship's front
56 Start a garden
57 Sailor's assent
58 Taxpayer IDs
1 Prompted
2 Aware of

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterdays answer 8-21



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Tigers ...

Continued from page 8
“That’s why I told the No. 2 guys that I wanted them both back,” Gillespie said. “I told them, ‘All they’re doing is lob, lob and then you are getting baited up front.’”

Blake Jones implemented a similar strategy against Clark Wellman at No. 3 singles. Jones would utilize lob shots to try and set the JCHS junior up deep before taking something off the ball to get it to bounce twice.

Jones ran out to an early 5-0 lead before eventually beating Wellman 6-2, 6-2.

While the Patriots (1-3) at those three positions struggled to control play, Paul Dirksen had no trouble against Ryan Long in the No. 1 singles match. (Long was filling in for an injured Owen May.)

Early on in the match, the freshman relied on mistakes by Long before turning up the speed later. In the third game of the second set, all six

Jay County High School’s Paul Dirksen reaches to hit a tennis ball before it reaches the court during Tuesday’s 4-1 loss against Alexandria-Monroe. Dirksen pulled off the sole win for JCHS at No. 1 singles, beating Ryan Long 6-2, 6-2.

points ended with a hit by Paul Dirksen, including a trio of overhead shots and one cross-court forehand for the win.

Come the final game of the match, nearly every shot Paul Dirksen hit was intended to set Long up. The second-to-last point



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

came as Paul Dirksen served the ball to Long’s right hand, forcing him out of bounds to return it before crossing the ball to the opposite side of the court. He then ended the match 6-2, 6-2 with an ace that got past Long’s outstretched racket.

“I was just keeping my mind in the game,” Paul Dirksen said. “I started out not very good the first two games, but I just stayed mentally in it.”

“Just move him to the right and then aim for the left. Just swing it across the court and get

him to move and then hopefully finish the point.”

While he couldn’t pull out the win himself, fellow freshman Henry Dirksen also had a strong match. He got down to Austin Webb 5-1 in the first set of the No. 2 sin-

gles match before fighting back to tie it 5-5. Webb stopped the slide there to claim the first set 7-5.

Henry Dirksen again found himself down 5-2 in the second set and started to make another stand, but it got cut short as Webb claimed the position 7-5, 6-3.

While Gillespie knows his team has some things to work on, he was encouraged by what he saw out of the Dirksens and even more so out of the way the group came together following the match.

“What I do enjoy is ... we’re all here,” Gillespie said while pointing to his players cheering on Nick Snow during a JV match. “It’s seven o’clock. We’ve got two JV players playing and not one person has even asked to leave.”

“This is a close knit team and I can’t beat the attitudes that I have. We just have to get better on the court.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys tennis vs. Norwell – 5 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Delta – 6 p.m.; Girls soccer at Heritage – 6 p.m.; JV girls soccer at Heritage – 7 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Muncie Southside – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high soccer at Northside – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Minster – 4 p.m.; Girls golf vs. Minster – 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at National Trail – 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football at Versailles – 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football vs. Blackford – 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football vs. Ponitz – 7 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
11 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)

5 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)
7 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees (FOX)
7:35 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Tampa Bay Rays (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN)

Friday
2 p.m. — LIV Golf Team Championship (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: Bayern Munchen at RB Leipzig (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: West Ham United (USA)
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Pitt at Nebraska (FOX)
7 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NFL preseason: Minnesota Vikings at Tennessee Titans (CBS)
9 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at Flori-

da (FOX)
9:10 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Baders 200 (FS1)
9:38 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Arizona Diamondbacks (FDSN Indiana)

Local notes

Outing announced
The Adams Health Network Foundation will host the 12th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 12 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.
There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided, as well as a lunch in between flights.
The event raises funds for healthcare scholarships and local health initiatives in Adams County.
The deadline to register is Aug. 22. To register visit adamshospital.org/foundation. For more information, email kim.tormbley@adamshealth-network.org.

Chamber to host
Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.
Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well.
Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.
The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jay-countychamber.com.

Tickets available
Jay County Junior-Senior High School is selling super and season tickets.
To purchase tickets, visit the high school’s office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Regular season tickets for individual varsity

events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.
The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Senior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.
Other deals are as follows:
•High School Adult Super tickets - \$90
•Senior Super Tickets - \$55
•Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60
•Basketball season pass - \$60
•Football season pass - \$25

Next race set
The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23.
The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
.....
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@thecr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

2 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
August 30, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M.

August 31, 2025 AT 12:30 P.M.
LONGABERGER BASKETS, POTTERY, WROUGHT IRON & ACCESSORIES

This 2 day auction offers an extensive Longaberger collection. Basket series include All American, Autumn Reflections, Christmas, Collectors Club, Easter Series, Father’s Day, May Series, Mother’s Day, Plaid Gathering, laundry, hamper, compote, and checkerboard are a very small sample of the 600+ baskets to be sold. Pottery include cannister set, cookie jars, crocks, planters, bowls, mugs and casserole. Wrought iron to include corner stand, quilt rack, bakers stands, treasures stand, snowman to name just a few. Live and online bidding will be offered on the first 150 lots each day. Live bidding only on the remaining basket lots each day. Visit Hi Bid for a listing of the items to be sold Live and On Line each day or contact the Auction Company. Pictures are available on Auction Zip - #12957.

Auctioneers Note: Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday for preview.
JUDY FULLER
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Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland IN
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1 - 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. 1st floor features include kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinets, dining room, living room, bedroom, full bathroom, and enclosed front

90 SALE CALENDAR

porch. 2nd floor includes 3 bedrooms and 1 half bathroom. Home is connected via an enclosed area to a 2 car garage with approximately 895 square feet and includes a pull down stairway accessing attic storage. Property also offers a 48’ x 56’ pole building with front and rear overhead doors, enclosed shop/office area, concrete floor, and 100 amp electrical service.

Tract 2 - One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.

Tract 3 - Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland. This property offers the rare opportunity to purchase land in Portland with both agricultural and commercial opportunities.

Tract 4 - Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.

Tract 5 - Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres. OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025 FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.
TRACTORS - CRAWLER
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours.
1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours.
Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade.Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader.
TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT
. 1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck.

90 SALE CALENDAR

2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles. 1985 Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow. 2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles. 2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles. JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow. Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow. JD 7’ Cycle Bar Mower. JD 4 Row Cultivator. New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T Square Baler. Kelly 18i Backhoe Bucket. 30 Ton Hyd Press. Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper. Rabbit Cages.

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OWNER: James M Robbins.

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025
TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN
GUN -GUN SUPPLIES-AMMO
Taurus 357 Mag 6 Shot Revolver (3 Screw). 45 Cal ACP Pistol. H & R Sportsman 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. Ammo Reloader. Tumbler. Reloading Supplies. Large Lot of Lead. Large Lot of Gun Supplies. TRAILER-TILLERS-SHOP EQUIPMENT
5’ X 8’ Single Axel Utility Trailer. Stihl Mini Tiller. Craftsman Rear tine Tiller. Dewalt Power Miter Saw. Delta Bandsaw. . Router w/ Stand. Roller Stand. Double Arbor Buffer. Fishing Poles and Supplies. . Consew Industrial Sewing Machine. Sentry Small Safe.
ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD-MISC
Toys and Miniatures. Primitive Tools. Cross Cut Saws. Banjo. Marlboro Sign. Marlboro Top Ornate Sofa Table w/ End Tables and Coffee

90 SALE CALENDAR

Tables.Laser Printer. 2 and 4 Drawer Filing Cabinets. Large Lot of Hardware.
OWNER: Friends Firearms by Flora Friend.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
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HELP WANTED Painting and Pressure washing in Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland Indiana on Saturday Morning

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

9:30 A.M.

REAL ESTATE

Tract 1 – 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. 1st floor features include kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinets, dining room, living room, bedroom, full bathroom, and enclosed front porch. 2nd floor includes 3 bedrooms and 1 half bathroom. Home has beautiful Oak woodwork throughout including Oak pocket doors in 2 rooms. Additional features includes Carrier high efficiency gas furnace, MacClean water softener, Bradford gas water heater installed in 2021, gas wall heaters, 100 amp electrical service along with City of Portland water and sewage. Home is connected via an enclosed area to a 2 car garage with approximately 895 square feet and includes a pull down stairway accessing attic storage. Property also offers a 48’ x 56’ pole building with front and rear overhead doors, enclosed shop/office area, concrete floor, and 100 amp electrical service. This property offers you a rare opportunity to purchase a home with a rural setting located within the city limits.

Tract 2 – One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.

Tract 3 – Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland. This property offers the rare opportunity to purchase land in Portland with both agricultural and commercial opportunities. This tract of land already has had some water and sewage taps installed for possible development. Possession to be given to the buyer after the harvest of the 2025 crops.

Tract 4 – Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.

Tract 5 – Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres.

Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Buyer will assume property taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Buyer to receive possession of house and buildings at closing and will receive possession of land upon harvest of the 2025 crops. Property is selling “AS IS” and any inspections made by the prospective buyer are to be made prior to the auction date and will be at the buyers expense. Sellers will furnish Title Insurance and Warranty Deed. Owner confirmation day of auction and any statements made day of sale will take precedence over printed matter.

For more information or private showing contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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Gary Loy AU 01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
CR 8-5,13,21-2025

Huelskamp, Diller lead in Mercer County Meet, see roundup below

Sports

JCHS volleyball hosts Delta for home opener today, see Sports on tap

Tigers take four

Paul Dirksen earned lone point for Jay County

By ANDREW BALKO The Commercial Review A Dirksen has led the Patriots for the entirety of Donald Gillespie's tenure as coach. While the team couldn't pull off a victory, one of the newest Dirksens picked up the sole point. Paul Dirksen won the No. 1 singles match for the Jay County High School boys tennis team on Tuesday as it fell 4-1 to the Alexandria-Monroe Tigers.

"I saw some good things on the singles side, but I can't say the same for the doubles," said Gillespie. "Not that I'm picking on the doubles, but I got to get better. I need a point out of doubles to win sectionals and conference. ... So we've got to get back at some doubles drills I have not worked on. I'm not going to blame the kids, it's my fault. ... There's some things we can work on."

The doubles teams had the toughest times, as each pair won three games apiece. Kadyr Carpenter and Alex Miller fell to the Tigers' No. 1 duo of Cale Johns and Brody Sullivan 6-1, 6-2, while Aryeh Hollingsworth and Cooper Morgan beat Gabe Overton and Brock Wasson 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 doubles.

Both pairs got caught allowing Alexandria-Monroe dominate the playstyle as the Tigers worked the ball high into the air with lobs to set the Patriots up. The lobs would spread the Jay County pairs up before one of the Tigers would go to the net to attempt to volley the ball in between or get both Patriots at the net prior to sending the ball to the back line.

See Tigers page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Clark Wellman, the No. 3 singles player for the Jay County High School boys tennis team, hits a backhand over his head while ranging back during Tuesday's match against Alexandria-Monroe. The Patriots fell 4-1 in the match just one day after beating Madison-Grant for the first time in Donald Gillespie's tenure as coach.



Review preview Friday - 7 p.m.



Jay County Patriots



Portland, 0-0 Coach: Eddie Fields, first year (fifth overall) Conference: Allen County Last season: Jay County traded wins and losses over the first three games of the year before dropping the final six regular season games. The Patriots picked up one final win at Belmont in the sectional before falling to eventual state champ Bishop Luers 41-8 to finish with a 3-8 record. Returning leaders: Rushing — Leighton Brown — 38 carries for 200 yards and three touchdowns. Receiving — Grant Wendel — 17 catches for 207 yards and a touchdown. Defense — Garrett Bennett — 103 tackles, seven tackles for loss and one sack.

VS.

Blackford Bruins



Hartford City, 0-0 Coach: Steve Boozer, ninth year (23rd overall) Conference: Central Indiana Last season: The Bruins picked up victories against Fremont and Elwood to finish the season 2-8 to bounce back from a winless 2023. BHS lost 35-7 to Eastern in the sectional. Returning leaders: Passing — Hunter Cale — 7-of-17 for 55 yards and one touchdown. Rushing — Kamari Taylor — 115 carries for 586 yards and four touchdowns. Receiving — Corbin Batten — one catch for 11 yards. Defense — Gage Dow — 35 tackles and four interceptions.

Last season: Jay County only gave up two first downs over nine drives in its 49-0 win over Blackford last year. The Patriots found the end zone six times, including a blocked punt return by Lucas Strait.

Game notes: This is the 51st meeting between Jay County and Blackford. JCHS has a 36-14 advantage in the series, and won the last 14 meetings ... Boozer is a JCHS graduate and served as athletic director from 2013-2024.

FRHS boy runners open season fourth in county

ROCKFORD, Ohio — The top returners came ready to run for the Tribe.

The Fort Recovery High School cross country teams had four runners finish in the top 15 at the Mercer County Meet hosted by Parkway on Tuesday.

The boys team finished with 104 points to finish fourth out of six teams. Marion Local claimed the top spot with 42 points. The girls had 113 points, but finished sixth, while Celina won with 28.

Makenna Huelskamp had the top finish for FRJS with a time of 20 minutes, 28.34 seconds to cross the finish line third. The first two spots went to Celina's Jennalee Dameron (20:04.14) and Elle Miesse.

Riley Heitkamp took 12th with a time of 22:18.73. Other scores for the girls came from Madison Heitkamp (26th), Kendall Ranly (36th) and Claire Grube (49th).

Reese Diller led the boys with an eighth-place finish in 17:43.23. Freshman Alex Roessner came in on Diller's tail to claim ninth with a time of 17:59.94.

Russell Hart (24th), Evan Diller (35th) and Ben Vogel (41st) also scored for FRHS.

Fort Recovery Roundup

Spikers fall

FORT RECOVERY — Fort Recovery's volleyball team opened the season with a 25-21, 25-22, 23-25, 25-20 loss to the Memorial Roughriders on Tuesday.

Bridget Homan led the offensive attack with nine kills, while Cameron Muhlenkamp added seven.

The Tribe (0-1) got a decent chunk of their points defensively at the net as it recorded 17 blocks on Memorial (1-0). Brynn Willmann and Kayden Ranly had four blocks apiece, while Alexis Grisez followed with three blocks and five kills. Willmann also had a team-high three aces and Ranly had 26 assists.

Chloe Brockman led FRHS with 14 digs.

Jay sweeps Argylls

FAIRMOUNT — The Patriots returned nearly everyone from last season, and that consistency immediately translated to a win in the opener.

The Jay County High School volleyball team swept the Madison-Grant Argylls 25-6, 25-15, 25-14 to open the season Tuesday.

Hallie Schwieterman led the offensive attack. She had 14 of Jay County's 28 kills in the match.

Lani Muhlenkamp controlled the contest from the back row, leading with four aces and 21 digs.

Brenna Schmiesing blocked four of Madison-Grant's attacks and Mya Kunker sent back three as well.

Ella Rigby and Paisley Fugiett split setting responsibilities with the former assisting on 14 kills and the latter earning 12 assists.

Jay ties

MUNCIE — The Jay County boys soccer team finished the season opener with a 3-3 tie against the

Jay County Roundup

Muncie Central Bearcats on Tuesday.

The Patriots (0-0-1) struck first on a goal from foreign exchange student Elias Mueller, but Muncie Central (0-0-1) quickly tied the game up.

Prior to the halftime break, JCHS took a 2-1 advantage thanks to a Brody Collins goal, assisted by Jacoby Penrod.

MCHS scored the first two goals of the second half, including a penalty kick. Mueller tied the game at 3-3 with six minutes remaining after crashing his own shot and putting the rebound into the top left corner of the net.

Peyton Yowell made 10 saves in the game, while giving up three goals.

Towell leads

GENEVA — Jay County's girls golf team suffered a 197-220 loss on Tuesday to the Adams Central Jets at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

After making her season debut on Monday, Bailey Towell posted the season-low score of 48 strokes for the Patriots. She had two pars on the first and third holes, while supplementing them with three bogeys.

Towell finished one stroke behind match medalist Londyn Smith.

The next-best score for Jay County (1-4, 1-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) came from Crystal Swartzentruber. The freshman shot a 56 with pars on holes No. 2 and 4.

The third and fourth scores came from Erin Aker and Elizabeth Brunswick, as each shot a 58.

Also competing, but not scoring were Reny Lingo with a 59 and Alexa Ride-nour with a 61.

Fall is Coming

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